NO. 6] WASHINGTON CITY, FEBRUARY 20, 1808. [VOL. 1.

GENERAL WILKINSON.—It very palpably appears at this moment, that one object of Messrs. Clark and Randolph in denouncing Gen. Wilkinson was to wound the character of the president. How far they have succeeded in their views I will enquire in a subsequent number. At this instant I offer the following documents to the public :—They go to show conclusively, that Gen. Wilkinson enjoyed the confidence of Washington, Hamilton, and Adams; and that he was in the year 1797 equally willing to meet his enemies as he is in 1808.

Head Quarters, Pittsburgh,
Dec. 26th, 1797.

SIR,

To justify to our country and to the world your protection of me at a moment when numerous and powerful enemies were combined to destroy me, by implications which dare not meet the light, I profess before God and man is among the leading motives of all my actions.

The death of Gen. Wayne silenced an investigation which I had much at heart; because it would have unfolded scenes and circumstances evincive of my utility, my integrity, and my wrongs, which can now never reach the public eye. So soon as this death was announced in Philadelphia, I waited on the secretary of war, and held with him a conversation precisely to the following effect :—" Persecution is in the grave with general Wayne, but the door is still open to investigation, and I most earnestly wish an inquiry into my conduct, military aud political. Indeed the vindication of my own aspersed reputation, more than any desire to injure general Wayne, has directed the obstinate perseverance with which I have pursued this subject. I know that whispers and inuendos are circulated in secret to wound my character: I know that a sinister connexion with Spain is slanderously imputed to me: I know that jacobinism, French attachments, and an indisposition to the government of my country are basely ascribed to me: But conscious of innocence I court inquiry, to obtain an opportunity of vindication which I have amply in my power." To this Mr. M'Henry, after declaring that he did not know such things were said or insinuated; but that if they were, I must be sensible from the president's conduct to me that they had made no impression on his breast, replied in the following words —" I advise you as a friend to give yourself no more trouble about it." This conversation took place several weeks before the expiration of the session of congress, and I followed the advice given me, in the hope that the prejudices and animosity of my enemies might subside.

But I have been deceived; and while all my faculties have been on the stretch to promote the interests of the nation and the honor of the government, I find my enemies have not slumbered, and that calumnies are still circulated to wound my fame and impair the public confidence.

Under such circumstances I know not where to make an appeal with so much propriety as to your breast; because I implicitly confide in your justice, to determine my merits by my works, and not by the words of those

who seek my destruction; and because to you I owe the preservation of a spotless character, and am particularly responsible for my conduct.

The following circumstances have occasioned this trespass on your time, and may I hope justify the intrusion:

A man, by name Hamilton, from the lower country, anticipated me at this place several weeks, and it was presently rumored about the town that he had secret business with me, and waited my arrival. So soon as the report reached the ears of the commanding officer, captain Turner, and the quarter master general Mr. Wilkins, they called on Mr. Hamilton and taxed him with the slander; he avowed his innocence, and declared he had no knowledge of, or business with me. The report was then traced to a Mr. Postlethwaite, a tavern-keeper of the town; and he gave for author some one of his household who had it from a third person; but it could not be fixed that Hamilton had made the declaration.

That a man should be at this place with business for me, public or private, might occur without producing any remarkable effect: But when such man is known to be a professed Spanish agent, (the very same whom I had recommended to col. Sargent at Cincinnati, last May or June, as a proper subject for the attention of the civil magistrate, as will fully appear from the copy of my letter to the colonel, which was transmitted to the war office,) jealousies are excited, speculations produced, and conclusions formed highly injurious to me; when in fact I never have held, nor ever shall hold communication with him unless I may be authorised to put him in confinement, which, if consistent, I would recommend, and that he should be removed to some other place.

I entreat your pardon, Sir, while I claim your attention to a circumstance of similar import but more serious aspect.

In consequence of the information No. 1, I wrote the letter No. 2, and received for answer No. 3; and this last produced No. 4 and 5. The misrepresentations of captain Lewis, notwithstanding the affected guise of candor and respect which he gave his communication to my major of brigade Lovell, are apparent from the positive information of major Freeman and lieutenant Lovell. This officer, attached to the family of general Wayne in the relation of extra aid-de-camp, mingled in his prejudices and co-operated in his labors against me; and this circumstance has long protected him against the sentence of a general court martial for abuse of my character and contempt of my authority. I have considered it my duty to intrude those particulars upon you, with the solemn assurance that I shall omit no industry to find out the reputed author of this vile calumny; and if he has been guilty of the fact, to bring him to justice.

Believe me, Sir, it is the invisibility of my enemies only which I fear; for while I dare the open assault, I dread the secret stab. Defended by the invincible armor of integrity, I shall exultingly meet the combined force of my foes in fair conflict; yet with all my habits of vigilance, it may be impossible for me to guard against their wiles and stratagems. To you then, Sir, permit me to look up for protection against the shafts and arrows which may be levelled at the honor of an absent, injured, innocent man. Extend to me but the patronage which the retrospect of my recorded services may warrant, and my future conduct justify, and I ask no more,

under heaven, to justify your confidence, and to fulfill every reasonable expectation.

I beg leave in this place to remark on a circumstance which appears in a letter of the Spanish minister to the secretary of state. It is there stated that I had not received orders to oppose the violation of our territory by the British, on the quarter of Canada. This, as far as relates to the instructions which I received from the secretary of war, is true; yet it is, in fact, unfounded: For, Sir, you will be pleased to recollect, that in a conversation which I held with you on the subject of the chevalier's alarms, I asked you expressly "if the British should attempt to pass thro' our territory, whether I should oppose them," and you replied to me "undoubtedly." A circumstance so trivial at the time, may have escaped your recollection, but I am ready to bear testimony to the fact; and it may be proper for me to assure you at the same time, that I am ready to make oath, no eye ever beheld the instructions of the secretary, except the gentlemen attached to my person, and I even doubt whether they ever saw them; and I can aver with equal solemnity, that the contents of those instructions were never communicated by me to any person.

I fear I fatigue you; yet I must call your recollection to another circumstance. You may remember I shewed you a lump of virgin copper before I left Philadelphia, and asked your permission to search for the mine, which you granted. I have now the pleasure to inform you, that I have succeeded in that pursuit, and, if I may credit my informants, have discovered a country of mines. I had ordered two hundred pounds of copper to be brought away, but the metal was too hard for my tools, and a few small pieces only could be cut from the massy body. A sample will be delivered to you with this letter, inclosed in a tin case.

Before I left Philadelphia, I requested the secretary of war to mention to you my son, who bears my name, as a candidate for a commission in the army. Suffer me, Sir, now to recommend him to your patronage. It is my view to make him a scientific soldier, and to give him if possible every advantage of education and experience: He is sixteen years of age, and is well grown and well educated for his years. If your goodness may incline you to favor me, I should prefer the corps of artillerists for my son's noviciate, as the most scientific branch.

With the highest veneration for your character, and the most respectful attachment to your person,

I am, Sir, your obliged and faithful Soldier and servant,

JA: WILKINSON.

THE PRESIDENT.

—

Philadelphia, Feb. 4, 1798.

DEAR SIR,

I have received your favor of the 20th Dec. by the Miami chief, the Little Turtle, and have received and observed him with attention. He is certainly a remarkable man. He is recovered of the small pox, and what was worse, a severe fit of the gout. We shall endeavor to make him happy here, and contented after his return. I thank you for introducing him to me, and for the information you have given me concerning him.

I have also received your letter of the 26th of December.——It is very true that I have been tortured, for a great part of the year past, with written anonymous insinuations against

several persons in conspicuous public stations, that they had formed improper connections with Spain; and among others, against yourself. It has been frequently asserted that you held a commission and received pay as a colonel in the Spanish service.—This opinion appears to have taken such root upon the Mississippi, among the people in general, that scarcely any man arrives from that neighborhood who does not bring the report along with him. They seem to be in such a temper in that region, that nobody escapes accusation. I have not suffered these rumors concerning you to make impression upon me. But have lamented what I perceived must be the consequence of them among the people of the United States. The same jealousy or malice which transmitted them to me, I suppose would propagate them elsewhere, without much reserve.

I recollect, perfectly well, my instructions to you in person, to employ all the force within your power both militia and regulars, if necessary, to oppose the English or any other foreign nation who should presume to attempt a violation of our territory, by any expedition through it against their enemies.

It would be a pleasure to me to nominate your son to a commission, as you request. But in the first place, there is no vacancy in the artillery at present, as I am told; and secondly, it was a rule established by my predecessor, that the ensigns should have attained the age of twenty one, and I should be severely censured for departing from a military precaution of so high authority.

I recollect my consenting, that you should make an excursion, if in your judgment the service would admit of it, to the copper country. I thank you for the sample you have sent me, which I design to have analized.

For yourself, Sir, I will say, I esteem your talents, I respect your services, and feel an attachment to your person, as I do to every man whose name and character I have so long known in the service of our country whose behavior has been consistent.

We may be nearer than we expect to another trial of spirits: I doubt not yours will be found faithful.—What measures you may think fit to take to silence the villainous rumors and clamors of your connection with Spain and France, I know not. But no violent ones, or military ones, will do any good. I shall give no countenance to any imputations unless accusations should come, and then you will have room to justify yourself. But I assure you I do not expect that any charge will be seriously made.

I am, Sir, your most obedient
And humble servant,
JOHN ADAMS.

GENERAL WILKINSON.

Extract of a letter from major general Hamilton to President Adams, dated New York, September 7th, 1799.

"General Wilkinson, who has been some weeks in this city in consequence of an invitation, having for object the readjustment of our western military affairs, is about to make a journey to Braintree to pay his respects to you. On such an occasion, I hope it will not be thought improper should I address you on the subject of this officer; since what I shall say I know will accord with the views of general Washington, and with what I have reason to believe has already been suggested to you with his support by the secretary of war.

"You are apprized, Sir, that general Wilkinson served with distinction

in our revolutionary war, and acquired in it the rank of brigadier general: That for many years since that war he has been in the military service of the government with the same rank, in which rank he for some time had the chief command of the army:—That he has also served with distinction in this latter period, gen. Wayne, who was not his friend, has in one instance within my knowledge very amply testified. The decided impression on my mind as the result of all that I have heard or known of this officer, is, that he is eminently qualified as to talents, is brave, enterprizing, active and diligent, warmly animated by the genuine spirit of his profession and devoted to it. The recent communications between us have satisfied me more than ever that he is well entitled to the character I have just given him.

"So circumstanced and so qualified, all military usage and analogy give the general a very strong claim to promotion. His sensibility will suffer with reason if he has it not, and it would require more than usual patriotism and magnanimity to preserve him from discontent and disgust. I, as well as others, have heard hard things said of the general; but I have never seen the shadow of proof, and I have been myself too much the victim of obloquy to listen to detraction unsupported by facts."

(No. 1.)

Pittsburgh, Dec. 15th, 1797.

SIR,

Captain Thomas Lewis about the middle of October last called at the tavern of Dunwoody, in the city of Philadelphia, where I had stopped during the fever, and mentioned to me that he had heard a certain col. Green, in the state of Tennessee, declare that you, general Wilkinson, were a colonel in the Spanish service and regularly received pay as such, and that he could prove it. Captain Lewis at the same time observed to me that he thought it necessary you should be informed of it, and I might do as I pleased in communicating it.

Yours with respect,

(Signed) JNO. M. LOVELL.

GENERAL WILKINSON,
Commander in Chief.

(No. 2.)

Pittsburgh, Dec. 16th, 1797.

SIR,

Lieut. Lovell this day communicated to me, that you had informed him some person by the name of Green, from the district of Natchez, had declared in your presence that I held a colonel's commission in the Spanish service, and that he could prove it.

Although so ridiculous, so foul, and so groundless a calumny could produce no effect on the candid and honorable part of my acquaintance, yet, as there are in the world men *who do not know me*, and *others* to whom my *ruin* would not be *displeasing*—to guard the first against imposition, and to deprive the latter of the pleasure of misinterpreting my just contempt, which could not be better marked than by my silence, it is my intention should the case be deemed actionable, to have this Mr. Green hunted up and brought to punishment for his vile slander, before some respectable tribunal of our country:—I shall therefore, Sir, be obliged to you for a precise statement of the facts which have fallen within your knowledge, and which you will, when called on, be ready to support with your oath.

Before I end this letter it is proper for me to observe to you, that it is your duty, when you hear a brother officer

slandered, of any grade, much more the commander in chief, to vindicate his fame on the spot, or to give him an early opportunity of doing it himself, and not to make yourself the vehicle of defamation.

With consideration and due respect, I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

JA: WILKINSON.

CAPTAIN T. LEWIS, *Third Regiment.*

(No. 3.)

Pittsburgh, 17*th Dec.* 1797.

SIR,

Your letter of yesterday's date I have just received by Lieut. Lovell.

When I had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Lovell in Philadelphia, shortly after my return from the state of Tennessee, I communicated to him, for your information, that it was currently reported at Knoxville by a certain colonel Green, recently from Natchez, that the commander in chief of the American army was a colonel in the Spanish service, and that he received annually eighteen hundred dollars from the government of Spain, and that he could prove it.

This, Sir, is the amount of what I heard spoken of by the officers of the 4th regiment. I never to my knowledge *see* Green in my life. I heard colonel Butler observe that whenever Green should make his appearance at Knoxville, that he would hold him accountable for his insinuations respecting the commander in chief.

Mr. Francis Jones was at Knoxville at the time I believe Green was. 'Tis probable he can give you all the information respecting Green that you wish.

I must beg leave to observe that when I made the communication to Lieut. Lovell, that I had not the least idea of being considered a vehicle of defamation.

With due respect, I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) T. LEWIS.

BRIGADIER GEN. WILKINSON, *&c. &c.*

(No. 4.)

Pittsburgh, *Dec.* 18*th*, 1797.

SIR,

When captain Thomas Lewis and myself halted at Strasburgh on our journey to this place, he told me something highly interesting to your reputation, which at the time did not make much impression on my mind, I therefore cannot recollect every circumstance as perfectly as you could wish. The substance of his communication was, that he had been in company with a man who had told him that general Wilkinson, the commander in chief of the American army, was a colonel in the Spanish service, that he could prove it, and that he was going to Philadelphia where he would declare it publicly. Captain Lewis told me he had given this information to a third person, in order that you might be apprized of this man's declaration and intention.

I am confident I am correct in what is above stated. I visited captain Lewis last evening after I left your quarters, and told him I should write to you upon this subject. I repeated to him what I have now written. He did not object to any part thereof.

I have not retained the names of the persons above mentioned.

I have the honor to be,

With high respect, Sir,

Your very humble servant,

(Signed)

CONS'T FREEMAN,

Major A. and E.

GENERAL WILKINSON.

(No. 5.)

Pittsburgh, Dec. 25th, 1797.

SIR,

In consequence of capt. Lewis's reference to me I have to inform you, that I do not know, nor have I ever seen the Mr. Green referred to: But I heard the report of his conversation respecting you in the state of Tenessee, from a Mr. Elliott, who had heard it from Green in Knoxville, as he said.

I am, Sir,
With respect,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) FRANCIS JONES.

GENERAL WILKINSON.

The Mr. Green referred to by capt. Lewis was a resident at Natchez under the Spanish Government, and was one of those who had suffered by Gen. Wilkinson's tobacco contracts at New-Orleans. I am authorized to say that the General sought this person at Natchez, that he utterly denied the report of Lewis, and offered to take his oath to the fact.

NEUTRAL QUESTIONS.—From the "*Edinburgh Review*" for October, 1807, I copy the following criticism of three pamphlets, on the subject of Neutral Rights. The work from which I quote is of much celebrity, and has been greatly distinguished for the able manner in which it has discussed the most important topics relative to the concerns of the British empire; and particularly for its complete exposure of Mr. Cobbett's inconsistency with regard to the leading principles that ought to be maintained by the English ministry at the present time. The first pamphet reviewed is, "*The speech of the Hon. John Randolph, on a motion for the non-importation of British merchandize, with an introduction by the author of "War in Disguise."*" The second is entitled, "*Concessions to America the Bane of Britain,*" &c. and is attributed to Mr. Maryatt, a gentleman engaged in the West India trade: The third is called, "*Oil without Vinegar, and Dignity without Pride,*" &c. "by Macall Medford, Esq. of America." That part of the review which relates to Mr. Randolph's speech, being the first in order, is inserted in this number: The remainder will be printed in succeeding papers:—The reviewer says—

"These three pamphlets relate nearly to the same subject,—the discussions which have for about two years existed in form between this country and the United States, which have in reality, however, been growing up with the increase of the American commerce since the beginning of last war, and which have now come to the point of being speedily terminated, either by mutual concessions, or by an appeal to arms. It is peculiarly interesting as well as important, at this particular moment, to examine well the ground on which the parties are taking their stand; and we are not without hopes that there is yet time to remove the ignorance in which the public of both countries have been studiously kept, until the voice of the multitude has seemed to decide for war. But it is not merely for its temporary interest that we have chosen to bring this subject fully before our readers upon the present occasion. There are questions of a general and permanent importance involved in the discussion; some of them, too, never yet treated of by writers on public law, nor ever, so far as we can discover, introduced by statesmen into their views of national policy or rights.

The consideration of these topics is not only called for by the great ignorance which appears to prevail respecting them, but it is peculiarly adapted to the plan of a literary journal. We purpose, therefore, to examine at large the questions of public law and policy suggested by the present state of foreign and colonial affairs. The subject of neutral commerce and, in general, the disputes between Great Britain and the neutral powers, are no doubt intimately connected with the situation of our West Indian colonies. We shall endeavor, however, to separate the latter from the more extensive subject; and shall examine it, in a subsequent article of this number, with the care which its extraordinary importance demands. We shall begin, at present, with noticing the three pamphlets whose titles we have prefixed.

"The speech of Mr. Randolph is certainly the production of a vigorous mind. It abounds in plain and striking statements, mixed with imagery by no means destitute of merit, though directed by an exceedingly coarse and vulgar taste. But his arguments and opinions are of more importance than his rhetorical pretensions; for he speaks the sentiments of a respectable party in the United States. He maintains, that a rupture with Great Britain is by all means to be avoided; that America is in much less danger from the preponderance of the English marine in 1806, than she was in 1793, from the coalition against France; that the French conquests have now reversed the policy of America towards Europe; and that the only barrier between France and a universal dominion, before which America as well as Europe must fall, is the British navy. He ridicules the conduct of those who would quarrel with England for maritime rights, and at the same time truckle, or give bribes to Spain, the tool of France, after the greatest outrages have been committed upon the very territory of the Union. The cry for war, he says, is raised by the clamorous traders of the seaport towns,—men who cannot properly be said to belong to America, and who, at any rate, drive a commerce uncertain and transitory in its own nature, liable to be terminated at once by a peace in Europe, and much inferior, both in respectability and solidity, to those regular branches of industry which consist in the cultivation or the exchange of American produce. He treats with still greater severity those who undervalue the losses and risks of a war with England. The transference of the carrying trade to whatever nation may remain neutral,—the ruin of American navigation by the British navy, without the possibility of gaining any equivalent by means of privateering,—the want of English manufactures,—the augmentation of debts and taxes,—the choice either of carrying on hostilities feebly, or of endangering the liberties of the country by strengthening the executive; these calamitous effects of a rupture with England would, according to Mr. Randolph, make even the present champions of neutral rights repent of their violence, in six months after they drive the government into a war.

"Such, abstracted from a good deal of declamation chiefly on local and personal topics, is the substance of Mr. Randolph's speech, which the able and eloquent author of '*War in Disguise*,' the great leader of the argument on this side of the water, extols both for its own merits, and as a complete justification of his former predictions respecting the conduct of

America in the dispute. This introduction, though very hastily prepared for the press, is like all his other works, spirited and acute; but we must protest against quoting Mr. Randolph's speech, as any conclusive evidence of the probable conduct of the United States, or, indeed, as possessing any weight beyond the intrinsic value of the arguments which it contains. Mr. Randolph is the orator of a party professedly in opposition to the government. His evidence respecting the bent of public opinion in America, is not much better than the assertion of an English disputant, who espouses the same side of the question; and although his party succeeded in throwing out the first violent measure which was proposed to Congress, it has since failed completely in opposing the more moderate, but determined proofs of irritation against England, which, being given by a great majority of the legislature, cannot surely be regarded as the clamors of a few adventurers in seaport towns, whom Mr. Randolph and his commentator are unwilling to call Americans.

"With respect to the opinions maintained by Mr. Randolph as an American statesman, we are for the most part disposed to speak in favorable terms. He seems, indeed, to give nearly the same advice to his country, which has been offered to England by those distinguished political leaders, whose counsels, if followed, would have saved Europe from the dreadful calamities of the present war. To cultivate a friendly intercourse with all their European customers, but, if forced to chuse in such a crisis as this, to prefer the alliance of England, and to make considerable sacrifices rather than go to war at all, appears to be the soundest policy for the Americans. But we cannot help observing, that Mr. Randolph has gone a great deal too far in depreciating the importance of the carrying trade now in the hands of his countrymen. Admitting that the American merchant merely performs the part of what has been termed 'a neutralizing agent;' that he purchases on a long credit in the French or Spanish Islands, and then sells in Europe on a shorter credit, or merely carries the colonial produce circuitously from the plantations to the planter or his consignee—thus effecting the transport of other men's goods without any adequate capital of his own,—does it follow that this is an unprofitable line of employment? Rather, is it not the very traffic of all others the most gainful to speculative merchants? A person of a very small capital, is in this manner, enabled to share in the profits of large capitalists. He is repaid exactly as the consigness of our own West Indian planters are. Then, as to the persons so engaged being adventurers of no substance or respectability, we presume there must be a considerable mistake. How comes it that such persons enjoy an unbounded credit with the planters and their agents in Europe? How have they contrived to purchase, according to some statements, the whole French and Spanish shipping,—according to all accounts a very large proportion of it? After above twelve years of such lucrative practices, are they still needy adventurers? By the American public accounts, it appears, that in the year ending September 1806, the foreign goods exported from the U. S. exceeded sixty millions of dollars in value. If they who began so large a traffic were once mere agents trading for a commission, they must now have become capitalists; and as the

whole remaining exports of the country fall short of this by about nineteen millions, we may easily conjecture how great a proportion of the mercantile men are engaged in it, and how many of the commercial fortunes are derived from this quarter. About half of this branch of commerce, belonging to the French and Spanish colonies, is what England wishes to lop off, in order to hurt her enemies, who profit by it as well the Americans. Can she be much suprised, if those who are to be entirely ruined for the purposes of British policy, should endeavour by all means to prevent such a blow from being given? or, that other members of the community, who are but little injured by it, should still make common cause with their countrymen? It is, no doubt, the interest of the Americans not to quarrel with England, and it was still less their interest to rebel against her thirty years ago. By a rupture, too, they would infallibly lose the very object for which they threaten hostilities, besides incurring a great many other losses. But if such considerations had any weight in the councils of states, war would be banished from the world; for a declaration of war, whatever be its motive, never fails to ensure in the mean time a repetition of the offence which provoked it. But by defeating the enemy, which is always expected, a stop may, in the end, be put to the evil. Just so may the Americans argue. They may hope to establish for the future the rights which they now claim, and may rather choose to fight for them, at the risk of losing more, than give them up without resistance."

THE CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT —*(continued from page 67.)*—The friends of Mr. Madison have not been disappointed. Brutal invective has followed his nomination for the presidential office from the federal party; and our language is tortured in the search for terms of malignant reproach. If the malevolence of his accusers were clothed in alluring attire, or approached the public surrounded by the scintillations of wit, it might possibly meet with a gracious reception; but in its present foul appearance, it is too disgusting to be countenanced even by the most indelicate mind. The man who has devoted more than thirty years of his life to the service of his country; the purity of whose morals is proverbial; and the rectitude of whose political conduct is asserted by the fundamental institutions of the nation, has nothing to fear for his reputation from the shaft of the most searching satire: And with lofty scorn he may view the furious efforts of gross assailants to wound his character.

From the hurtless venom of federal spleen, I turn with some surprise to those solitary republicans, who are playing the jesuit with such aukward address. The flaming patriots who lately warmed us with the fervor of their zeal to sacrifice local prejudices and passions for unity and concert, have crossed the line of discretion to enliven the spirits of their ancient enemies; and the federalists, cheered by their approach, welcome their transit by loathsome croakings. It once was evidence of exalted merit to be the object of federal hatred and abuse; and, if I judge correctly, those who are friendly to freedom and the constitution, do not now admire Mr. Jefferson the less for being the continual object of censure from that party.—By what miracle, then, is it, that their objections to Mr. Madison have

become so convincing? Can it be possible that there is a rigid republican in the land who has suffered himself to be persuaded by them to his ruin? Has the guardian angel of our precious rights abandoned us thus early to the serpent; or has the foul monster *Ambition* stolen into the hearts of some of our former friends, to urge us to an untimely destruction?

It would be fruitless to seek for the specific cause: But the degrading fact stares us full in the face, that those republicans who oppose Mr. Madison's elevation are united in one common object with the federalists. In any other cause than that of a desperate attempt at supreme power, I doubt not this reflection would startle the most intrepid of those who are endeavoring to wean the public mind from a long-tried and virtuous statesman: But when the furious passion for sovereign rule has taken possession of the soul, there is no coalition, however disgraceful; no sophism, however weak and contemptible, that the human mind will not embrace.—The civilized warrior, when he combats for dominion, does not hesitate to connect himself with savages.

To sum up the objections to Mr. Madison, what do they amount to? His nomination by a convention of members of congress—the superior claims of others—his being a Virginian—and his having signed a recommendation of a compromise with the Yazoo claimants—constitute the whole.

What opinion of the public understanding must those persons have formed, who so absurdly revive the opposition to the nomination by convention? They must themselves be remarkably deficient in sense, or think the public want judgment extremely. Their grasping at such ludicrous objections proves that they have no solid arguments to advance against Mr. Madison; and that their hostility has its source in their passions and not in their reason. They condemn the method, without pointing to a more eligible plan. Will they pardon me when I tell them, that they would not have raised the objection at all if the convention had nominated their respective favorites! The friends of Mr. Clinton (if, indeed, they can be called his *friends*,) virtually condemn him when they denounce Mr. Bradley and the conventional proceedings: The venerable vice-president himself, received his original nomination to the station he at present occupies by a convention at which Mr. Bradley presided. Mr. Clinton's friends did not *then* deem it a dangerous, unconstitutional proceeding: But *now* their sensibility is beyond all calculation. Precious, disinterested souls! I beg leave to introduce them to the natural history of the crocodile.

With respect to the superior claims of other gentlemen to the presidency, I confess that I have yet to learn in what they consist. The question is to be decided by the evidence of facts. The statute books of Virginia and of the United States, as well as the diplomatic and political annals of the nation, will speak for Madison. Will the gentlemen who oppose him be kind enough to refer us to the page and volume where may be found the transcendant deeds of their heroes? They owe it to themselves to descend to particulars, for they have provoked the comparison.

Mr. Madison's birth-place is another wonderful obstacle! And Virginia is charged with insatiable ambition. But have his opposers never suspected, that their clamor against Virginia might betray their

own thirst for power? The truth is, the government of the United S. was established for the good of the whole people, and as to the selection of a president, the question is not, from which state shall we take him? but, *Where shall we find the man best fitted for the office?* New-York claims the honor for Mr. Clinton, on a kind of notion for rotation: Yet what superior claims has she to other states? I know men in Maryland, in Pennsylvania, in the eastern and southern states, who have strong demands upon the nation. But we have no clamors from those. There is no man who respects more than I do, the virtues and integrity of Geo. Clinton; but at this moment, in the present situation of the nation, Mr. Madison is calculated most essentially to serve his country in the first executive office; and I therefore prefer him. If Virginia has already given us two presidents, New York has given us two vice-presidents, whilst other states, whose patriotism is quite as ardent as that of New York, have never been thought of.

The zealous advocates of Mr. Monroe have assailed Mr. Madison on the topic of the report of the commissioners of the sinking fund in the case of the Yazoo claimants. Mr. Madison was one of them. The circumstance was very courageously seized upon by Mr. Dana about a week ago in the house of representatives, doubtles with a view to throw odium upon the secretary of state. I can tell that gentleman that he is mistaken; and matter of *fact* will put his cunning to shame. Mr. Dana may, indeed, pucker up his pretty brows, contract his eyes to the very focus of satirical squinting, gracefully roll his *mass of head* to and fro, and very broadly insinuate that Mr. Madison is in favor of the Yazoo speculation: But I assure him that the honorable secretary abhors that disgraceful fraud, as much as he pities the malicious imbecility of those who accuse him with partiality for it. Surrounded by a political atmosphere which stimulates those who breathe in it beyond a healthy tone of nerve, the editor of the "Richmond Enquirer," Mr. Ritchie, has been driven to utter suggestions equally groundless and injurious to his friends. Mr. Madison certainly signed a report in favor of a compromise, and Mr. Ritchie says, "Is it true that he did not investigate fully the horrible details of this stupendous speculation? I have reason to believe that he did not. Is it not true, that he unfortunately placed too much reliance on the talents and integrity of Mr. Gallatin, who certainly drew up the report and amidst all the denunciations which have assailed the character of Mr. Madison, has hitherto escaped the fury of the *discontents* in congress? I have reason to believe that he did." Mr. Ritchie may believe me when I tell him that he is altogether in an error. A little reflection will teach him, that it is not the character of Mr. Madison to act under the influence of any understanding except his own; and that however exalted an opinion he may entertain for the talents and integrity of any man, he would not make him the keeper of his conscience nor the expositor of his judgment.—His genuine reflections will further instruct him, that Mr. Madison will not shrink from his proper share of responsibility in the case; and that as he always considered the Yazoo speculation a detestable corruption, he would scorn to escape from a recommendation of the *expediency* of an

adjustment of *honest* claims, under the plea of penitence and sorrow.

Mr. Ritchie will understand me as speaking the language of friendship and sincerity: We are both contending in the cause of our country and for one of her most excellent sons. I hold it to be my duty, where I see a brother soldier eagerly pressed and yielding in the conflict, to hasten to his aid and retrieve him from the enemy.

I perceive by a Richmond paper of the 12th inst. that Mr. Monroe's friends have raised an outcry in his behalf on the score of the rejected treaty. I now inform those gentlemen, that the time is not distant when they will be amply convicted of folly and completely humiliated on that topic. I cannot believe that Mr. Monroe has either authorised or sanctions these ungracious publications; but he owes it to his own reputation to discountenance them.

EXTENSION OF CREDIT ON REVENUE BONDS, AND ADDITIONAL SUPPLEMENT TO THE EMBARGO — The following document will serve to explain the nature and necessity of these respective bills, now before congress; and in that point of view will be interesting to the public:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Jan. 16, 1808.

SIR—I had the honor to receive your letter of the 12th instant, requesting to be informed whether any inconvenience can arise from an extension of credit for duties on imported goods, as contemplated by the resolution referred on the 7th instant, by the house of representatives, to the committee of commerce and manufactures.

If it was practicable to confine the extension of credit to those articles which *would* have been exported, had not the embargo taken place, no inconvenience could arise to the revenue from such extension. But if the indulgence is intended to apply to all the articles which *might* have been exported, the revenue will be sensibly affected.

As it is impossible to ascertain what articles would actually have been exported, I do not perceive any other practicable mode of granting relief than that which was adopted during the embargo of 1794, viz: a selection of those imported articles only, the greater portion of which is usually re-exported. These are coffee, pepper, sugar, indigo, and cocoa; —to which French wines might be added, were they not of so perishable nature that the deposit would not secure the duties.

It will also be necessary that the deposit should be to the full amount of the goods for the duties on which an extension of credit is asked; and that the duties should be paid from time to time on any parcel taken by the owner from the public stores.

As connected with this subject, permit me to mention the numerous cases of foreign goods actually put on board of vessels which have been detained by the embargo. It appears to me that on the one hand, it would be improper to issue debentures and pay drawback on goods which have not been, and may never be exported; whilst on the other, it would be unjust to require, and perhaps difficult to recover the immediate payment of duties which may be due on the importation of such goods. The extension of credit proposed for coffee, sugar and pepper might, without any inconvenience, be granted in all those cases, whatever the species of the goods might be; and the merchandise, at the option of the owner, either be deposited in the public stores

or remain on board the vessels under the special care of an inspector.

An examination of the embargo acts induces me to believe, that there are some defects which might be provided for, and which I embrace this opportunity of mentioning.

I. Vessels not registered nor licensed, and having no sea letters, such as all vessels under five tons, ought, I think, to give a permanent bond in the manner provided for licensed vessels by the proviso of the 2d section of the supplementary act. This is particularly necessary, in order to prevent infractions of the law on those waters which divide the United States from the British or Spanish colonies.

II. A term should be fixed by law for relanding within the U. States the cargoes of vessels clearing from one port to another, making the penalty of the bond to attach, if proof of such landing be not given within such term.

III. It will be very difficult to prove infractions of the law by vessels employed on the fisheries, nor do I perceive any better means to guard against a part of their *fishing fare* being sold on the banks, and only a part being brought into the U. States, than the oath of the master and mate on the return of the vessel.

That other defects will be discovered and difficulties experienced which are not now foreseen, cannot be doubted. But those three points seem to require immediate attention.

I have the honor to be,
Respectfully,
Sir,
Your obedient serv't,
ALBERT GALLATIN.

HON. THOMAS NEWTON,
Chairman of the committee of Commerce and Manufactures.

The subjoined table exhibits at one view the difference between the amount of exports and imports into the United States of the articles specified, in one year. It will serve likewise to show the quantity of each commodity consumed annually in the country; as well as to pourtray the enterprize of the Americans in driving a trade with foreign nations.

ARTICLES.	IMPORTED *from 1st October, 1805, to 30th Sept. 1806.*	EXPORTED *with benefit of drawback in same period.*	PROPORTION OF EXPORTS TO IMPORTS.
Coffee - - - lbs.	55,993,788	45,961,1 5	82 to 100 or 4-5
Sugar - - - - do.	199,128,120	141,832,169	70 — — or 7-10
Cocoa - - - - do.	8,543,111	6,317,644	74 — — or 3-4
Indigo - - - - do.	488,055	305,042	60 — — or 3-5
Pepper - - - - do.	3,682,065	2,813,001	76 — — or 3-4
Wines paying 23 cts. per gallon } gall.	3,209,603	2,853,263	89 — — or 9-10
Teas - - - lbs.	7,019,450	1,723,430	24 — — or 1-4
Other Wines - - gall.	1,616,027	531,553	33 — — or 1-3
Spirits - - - do.	10,992,204	1,124,473	10 — — or 1-10
Merchandize ad. val. 15 pr. ct.	44,550,223	8,884 577	20 — — or 1-5
Ditto - - 17 1-2	9,250,706	1,189,593	13 — — or 1-8
Ditto - 22 1-2	548,849	47,298	9 — — or 1-11

CONGRESS.—*Monday, February* 15, 1808.—The following message was received from the president of the U. S. and on motion of Mr. Quincey was referred to the committee to whom was referred a former communication from the president touching our relations with Algiers :

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the U. S.

I communicate, for the information of Congress, a letter from the consul of the United States at Malaga, to the Secretary of State, covering one from Mr. Lear, our consul at Algiers, which gives information that the rupture threatened on the part of the Dey of Algiers has been amicably settled, and the vessels seized by him are liberated.

TH: JEFFERSON.

February 15, 1808.

Extract of a letter from William Kirkpatrick, consul of the U. States at Malaga, to the Secretary of State, dated 5th January, 1808.

" By my last letter of the 15th December, I inclosed copies of the information I had received from Barcelona and Marseilles regarding the hostilities commenced on our commerce by the cruisers of the dey of Algiers, and am now happy in having it in my power to transmit a copy of a letter I have just received from colonel Lear, under date of 16th and 17th December, with the pleasing information that he has succeeded in adjusting matters with the dey, and that the vessels captured had been set at liberty, which I hasten to communicate to you by a vessel on her departure for Salem."

(CIRCULAR.)

[COPY.]

Algiers, December 16, 1807.

SIR—You have undoubtedly, before this, heard that three American vessels had been detained by a frigate of this place, in consequence of the annuities for two years past not having been sent from the United States in naval and military stores, as stipulated by treaty, notwithstanding the amount thereof has been repeatedly offered in cash.

These vessels are, the ship Eagle, of Newyork, Thater, master, from Bristol to Palermo ; cargo, glass bottles ; brig Violet, of Boston, James Merret, master, from Oporto to Leghorn ; cargo, sugar, hydes, indigo, &c. and schooner Mary-Ann, of N. York, Ichabod Sheffield, master, from the straits of Belle Isle to Leghorn ; cargo, fish.

The two former have been in this port upwards of forty days. The schooner has not arrived, and is supposed to have made some other port. The people on board these vessels have been treated very well, and no pillage of any kind has been committed.

I have now the honor to inform you that I have adjusted this business with the dey, who has received the amount of two years annuities due, in cash, and the vessels are liberated, and that our commerce will receive no further molestation from the cruisers of this regency.

I pray you will have the goodness to give this as much publicity as possible for the benefit of all concerned therein.

I have the honor to be,
Very respectfully,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
TOBIAS LEAR.

WILLIAM KIRKPATRICK, ESQ. *Consul of U. S. of America, Malaga.*

P. S. December 17, 1807. We have this moment heard, by an arrival from Leghorn, that the schooner be-

fore mentioned has arrived in Naples, having been re-taken by the captain, and part of the crew left on board, who threw overboard four of the captors, and put four others into the boat to shift for themselves.

I have myeslf received no advice of this, and, on application to the dey, who first sent me the information, he assures me that it shall not alter the arrangement made yesterday, and that our vessels may navigate without fear of molestation. At present all their cruisers are in port.

I have the honor to be,
TOBIAS LEAR.

Please to forward a copy of this letter to the secretary of state of the United States by the first opportunity.

(A true copy.)
WILLIAM KIRKPATRICK.
Malaga, January 5, 1808.

[The house of representatives have this week passed a number of bills, and a variety of interesting resolutions were offered by different members, which want of room prevents me from detailing in this number: They will, however, be presented in a subsequent Register, together with a few sketches of debate:]

Friday, Feb. 19, 1808.—At the opening of the house this day, the following message was received from the president. The report referred to is too long for immediate insertion:

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the U. S.

The states of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia, having, by their several acts, consented that the road from Cumberland to the state of Ohio, authorised by the act of congress of March 29, 1806, should pass through those states, and the report of the commissioners communicated to congres with my message of Jan. 31, 1807, having been duly considered, I have approved of the route therein proposed for the said road as far as Brownsville, with a single deviation, since located, which carries it through Union Town.

From thence the course to the Ohio, and the point within the legal limits at which it shall strike that river, is still to be decided. In forming this decision I shall pay material regard to the interests and wishes of the populous parts of the state of Ohio, and to a future and convenient connection with the road which is to lead from the Indian boundary near Cincinnati by Vincennes to the Mississippi at St. Louis, under authority of the act of April 21, 1806. In this way we may accomplish a continued and advantageous line of communication from the seat of the general government to St. Louis, passing through several veryinteresting points of the western country.

I have thought it adviseable also to secure from obliteration, the trace of the road so far as it has been approved, which has been executed at such considerable expence, by opening one half of its breadth through its whole length.

The report of the commissioners, herewith transmitted, will give particular information of their proceedings under the act of March 29, 1806, since the date of my message of Jan. 31, 1807; and will enable congress to adopt such further measures relative thereto as they may deem proper under existing circumstances.

(Signed) TH: JEFFERSON.
Feb. 19, 1808.

Published in F street.—Price, $5 per annum, in advance.